

DRAFT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2009

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women (CW) was held on Monday, March 9, 2009 in Room, 372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Duba called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Duba
Vice President Tanberg
Treasurer Freeman
Commissioner Creary
Commissioner Gravely
Commissioner Jernigan
Commissioner Lesser
Commissioner Rodriguez

Introduction of staff and audience followed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2009

On motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Vice President Tanberg, and duly carried, the minutes of February 9, 2009 were approved as corrected. Vice President Tanberg abstained.

On page 5, Commissioner Jernigan requested under Legislative Reports to omit comments from the report because it is not part of the report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Duba reported the following:

- On February 13, 2009, she attended the Mental Health of America new facility celebration. Treasurer Freeman will look into hosting the Commission's district community meeting at that location.
- On February 17, 2009, the Commission held their scholarship presentation honoring 30 \$1,000 and 5 \$2,000 awards to at-risk young ladies. The event was the best event ever; everyone did a great job in preparing the event. The Interval House presentation on domestic violence and teen dating was excellent.
- On February 26, 2009, she attended the Go Red Luncheon that had free health screenings. She distributed the red dress pins to the Commission and items in the goodie bag.
- On February 16, 2009, she and Treasurer Freeman met with Former Awardee Dixie Eliopolis to discuss assisting with coordinating the Fifth District Town Hall meeting and also presented her with a donation from the Commission for the women's spring tea event.

- The "Women of the Year" awards luncheon will be held on March 16, 2009 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.
- A panel discussion on domestic violence, co-hosted by the Domestic Violence Council and the Commission, will be held on April 23, 2009 in the Hall of Administration.
- The Commission's Fifth District Town Hall Meeting will be held on May 9, 2009 in Antelope Valley.
- The regular CW meeting on June 13, 2009 will be solely dedicated to take notice of committee reports oral and written and present award of appreciation from Commissioners to volunteers for their outstanding works.
- In July a follow-up retreat meeting will be held to review/update the Commission's mission as stated at the previously held retreat.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- Newly appointed Commissioner, Doctor Veda Ward, is a Third District appointee who may attend her first CW meeting in April 2009.
- The Los Angeles County Sheriff's is hosting the Western States Police & Fire Games on June 13-20, 2009 in Santa Clarita, CA is a multi-sport Olympic style athletic program, held annually, to promote physical and mental well being of law enforcement professionals is looking for volunteers.
- Distributed flyers from Tiffany Smith, intern, with information about International Women's Day at UCLA that was held on March 5, 2009.

PRESENTATION ON THE EARLY RELEASE OF INMATES AND THE IMPACT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES

The Commission invited Leroy Baca Los Angeles County Sheriff; Eve Sheedy, Director of Domestic Violence Policy, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office; and Victoria Adams, Head Deputy, Family Violence Unit District Attorney Office to speak on the early release of inmates and its impact on domestic violence (DV).

Sheriff Baca reported that no inmate is serving less than 70% of the sentence as required by the law. Anyone with a DV offense will serve jail time. The offenders in the domestic violence recovery program serves 100% of the sentence or until they complete the program. There is a 52 week battery training program for inmates on probation or a continuance in the program once released. Female offenders are treated equally. Also, Sheriff Baca asked the Commission to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting them not to cut the jail's budget and he offered to have his staff speak at women shelters regarding DV.

Sheriff Baca also shared the following:

- ⊗ The less violent offenders will be considered for an early release based on jail space and the ability to do the program at the same time.
- ⊗ A new policy regarding rape kits ensure all kits are analyzed in order to have maintained an accurate record of rapists.
- ⊗ Rutherford Ruling restricts the number of jail beds in the County to 20,000.

Eve Sheedy, Director of Domestic Violence Policy, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, commended the Sheriff's Department for providing as much resources as are available to keep DV offenders in custody. However, it is not the experience of the City of Los Angeles to keep their offender in custody 100% of the time or that a misdemeanor offender is eligible for a DV program nor is there evidence that anyone in the short-term DV program would change their conduct. Although she feels the program is a good idea and respects the fact that the Sheriff's Department identifies DV as a serious problem, she stated that a major concern is that many DV offenses are not labeled DV i.e. trespassing, or car theft against a victim. There is no way of knowing on the face of the charge that it is a DV problem which is when the Sheriff takes them into custody and to state it otherwise may have legal implications.

There are two major problems which are the lack of jail resources and the impact on misdemeanor prosecution. Ms. Sheedy stated that a majority of the cases across the country regarding DV are misdemeanor offenses. Most of the DV misdemeanor offenses are placed on probation and under the statute to attend a 52 week batterer training program, pay a fine, or may issue a restraining order for the victim and other requirements. If they violate their probation, they face jail time, which motivates them to participate; if they opt to serve time in jail, they are not obligated to partake in any of the DV programs that are mandated, if on probation. The lack of space in the jails and over crowded courts, often translates into charges that are of a lesser offense.

Victoria Adams, Head Deputy, Family Violence Unit District Attorney Office, stated that the ultimate goal of the California Penal Code is punishment to hold the abuser accountable. The jail allows the victim to be away from the abuser which provides an opportunity for stability for the victim which is why the District Attorney wants jail time for the abuser. She provided 2008 statistical information on the 7,011 misdemeanors or felony counts on DV. These numbers are no where near the DV occurrences in the community that are not reported. She believes that the DV recovery program that is required by law is deficient because their behaviors will not necessarily change in a year. There needs to be long term solution for both the abuser and the victim and intervention to prevent the incidences from happening.

(Commissioner Becerra-Jones arrived at 10:50 a.m.)

The Commission thanked the speakers for attending the meeting and the City Attorney's offices will share with their co-workers about attaching to the offender's folder that the case was DV related.

2009 AWARDS LUNCHEON AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORT.

The CW Awards Luncheon Chair Gravely updated the Commission on the final preparation of the event scheduled for March 16, 2009 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. She thanked everyone for their support.

(Commissioner Pinedo arrived at 11:20 a.m.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Freeman reported on the expendable allowance for the month of February 2009. The beginning balance of February was \$24,592.29; flex spending expenditures were \$500.00; ending balance is \$24,092.29. The carry-over for March 2009 Flex Spending Allocation is \$17,275.56

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL TO ENDORSE DENIM DAY IN L.A., PRESENTED BY PEACE OVER VIOLENCE (FORMERLY LACAAW) ON APRIL 22, 2009 AT NO COST TO THE COMMISSION.

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Lesser, seconded by Commissioner Creary and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to endorse Denim Day 2009 on April 23, 2009. Staff was asked to place a Denim Day link on Commission's website.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO THE STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES, ARTICLE VII, DUTIES OF OFFICERS, C. TREASURER.

Treasurer Freeman requested that the Commissioners review the Statement of Procedures revisions regarding the changes to the Treasurers responsibilities for approval at the April 13, 2009 meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS RECEPTION AND ORIENTATION REPORT

Education Chair Becerra-Jones thanked the Commissioners for being at the event. She also mentioned Dr. Baldwin will provide all the Scholarship Recipients information on where to get health check-ups. Ms. Caballero, Dean of Administration and Student Services of LACUSC Health Services Department, has agreed to meet with our five nursing scholarship recipients and their potential mentors to discuss careers in nursing. Staff will be assisting her to create a survey to send to all Scholarship Recipients to

determine health needs, completed education, etc. Pictures of the event were circulated for Commissioners to review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee: Vice President Tanberg thanked the Committee Chairs for submitting their Action Plans and looks forward to hearing the status reports of the committees action plans at the June 8, 2009 Commission meeting.

Treasurer Freeman shared a qualification letter that she drafted to help create a depository of Women in Leadership. She also requested that the letter be placed on the next agenda for review and approval by the Commission. As Chair of the District Town Hall Meeting, she is working to enhance the Commission economic position by getting bids for catering and obtaining sponsors. Staff was requested to obtain a copy of the Scholarship Presentation at the Board of Supervisors' Hearing that was held on February 17, 2009.

Legislation: Commissioner Jernigan distributed and reviewed a packet with information on the number of women elected to serve in the California legislation and our nation's capitol. A photo of Representative Hilda Solis was included when she was confirmed as the U.S. Labor Secretary. There will not be any California legislation numbers until after March 13, 2009 because of the prolonged efforts to approve California's budget.

Health: Commissioner Lesser reported that the Health Committee will have a teleconference on March 18, 2009 and Claudia Keller, Director of the Heart Association will be participating. The Commission received NACW Golden Healthy Bones Award because of the Commission's promotion of the Healthy Bones campaign on their website and at the LA County Run for Health on September 13, 2008. Healthy Bones information will be disseminated at the Women of the Year awards luncheon on March 16, 2009.

Domestic Violence: The letter inviting the Board of Supervisors to attend the Domestic Violence April Breakfast Briefing was submitted to the Executive Office for review and approval. Once the letter is approved information regarding the event will be circulated.

Education: No Report.

Gender Equity: No Report.

Older Women's Issues Committee: Pat Wilson, Older Women's Issues Committee Member, stated the members from the older women's conference will meet with Supervisor Ridley-Thomas today to seek his endorsement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Geneviève Clavreul reported that Supervisor Ridley-Thomas will provide information at the March 17, 2009 Board of Supervisor's meeting on the cost and timelines for the re-opening of MLK Hospital. She also stated that there is a rapid increase of HIV/AIDS in the elderly community that is not being diagnosed. She shared an article she wrote about graduating nurses that do not know how to find a job.

Yvonne Lovato, Supervising Victim Services of the District Attorney's (DA) Office, mentioned that their office provides up to \$72,000 to assist in recovery from DV which includes mental health care for victims and their children. She offered someone from her office to speak before the Commission about the Victim-Witness Assistance program. On April 29, 2009, the DA's office will host a symposium at Almansor Court in celebration of victim rights week. She is also seeking volunteers.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

On March 6, 2009, Treasurer Freeman attended the Black Women's Empowerment Conference and reported that nearly 80 women tested for HIV at the event. On February 12, 2009, she attended the Palmdale Women's Club meeting.

In support of Go Red Campaign, Vice President Tanberg had posters posted throughout Rancho Los Amigos Hospital facility.

Commissioner Creary attended the following:

- LA City Council's Black History, A Tribute to the Honorable Merv Dymally, 48 Years of Public Service on February 13, 2009.
- CW's Scholarship Orientation and Presentation February 17, 2009.
- Black Leadership Forum, Inc. Lamplighter Awards, at the Historic Lincoln Theatre in Washington, DC on February 21, 2009.
- American Heart Association's Go Red Luncheon on February 25, 2009.
- 2nd District Living Legend Awards and State of Black America at the Natural History Museum on February 26, 2009.
- Charles Drew University reception honoring Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas on February 27, 2009.
- Tavis Smiley's 10th Anniversary State of Black America dinners on February 27 & 28, 2009.

Commissioner Lesser announced the ACCW teleconference was scheduled for March 11, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. and anyone interested can participate. She has almost completed her status report and asked the Commission to review and report back with suggestions in order to have the final draft ready for submission at the Town Hall Meeting.

Commissioner Gravely attend the American Heart Association's Go Red Luncheon on February 25, 2009.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA (to be presented and placed on a future agenda):

Commissioner Jernigan would like staff to order the CA Roster for the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Reiko Duba, President
Bobbi Jean Tanberg, Vice President
Peggy Freeman, Treasurer
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Ruth V. Creary, Ph.D.
Wadie Gravely
Ruth Jernigan
Charlotte Lesser
Michelle Pinedo
Olivia Rodríguez

EXCUSED

Janet Mummey, Esq.

UNEXCUSED

Karin Davalos

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Victoria Adams, LADA
Sheriff Leroy Baca, LASD
Mary Griffith, LACAAA
Elaine Rodriguez, OAAC
Rhonda Rangel and Nyla Jefferson, Executive Office

GUESTS

Geneviève Clavreul
Eve Sheedy, Los Angeles Attorney's Office
Pat Wilson